

NEW SOUTH WALES.BUSINESS STATISTICS - MONTHLY DIGEST.5th JUNE, 1942.

NOTE: The "Notes on the World Wheat Situation" normally accompanying the digest do not appear in this issue. The "Notes" will be issued in future only as sufficient data becomes available.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - MONTHLY DIGEST.JUNE, 1942.GENERAL:

Business conditions are dominated by the application of ever extending Government controls.

The further elimination of non-essential imports announced at the beginning of May has been followed by extended plans for rationalisation of industry and diversion of man power. Production for export of non-essentials is being reviewed and investigation is proceeding into the food requirements of our Allies, the armed services in Australia and the civilian population.

The effects of mobilisation plans are already being felt in non-essential industry which has lost much of its manpower. Clothes rationing has brought part of the retail trade under control.

PUBLIC FINANCE.

The accounts of the State Government reveal a surplus at the end of ten months of the financial year of £m. 1.2. It is expected that the surplus at the end of the year will be at least £m. 1.0.

Loan estimates for 1941/42 submitted to the State House provided £5.35 m. including £2.24 m. for railways, £0.71 m. for roads and £0.21 m. for A.R.P. The programme had been submitted to the Co-ordinator-General of Works.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT - CONSOLIDATED REVENUE & BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

Includes Unemployment Relief & Social Services Funds which were included in the Consol. Revenue Fund from 1st July, 1941.

		TEN MONTHS ENDED APRIL				
		1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Revenue	£m.	46.23	45.64	49.01	52.77	55.42
Expenditure	£m.	47.43	48.64	52.33	53.54	54.22
Surplus (+) or Deficit (-)	£m.	(-) 1.20	(-) 3.00	(-) 3.32	(+) 0.77	+ 1.20

The Commonwealth Government's expenditure on the war in the current financial year is expected to be about £290 m. Next year, the Prime Minister has announced war expenditure could be put conservatively at £360 m.

Customs and excise revenue for the current year will show a large surplus over

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the estimate. After ten months the revenue exceeded the estimate by £6.2 m. Post Office revenue has exceeded the estimate by £452,000 to date.

Rates of Sales Tax were raised from 1st May as follows:- "General" field - 10%, now 12½%, "Non-essentials" - 20%, now 25%. Revenue from Sales Tax may be £6.4 m. a year greater.

For the duration of the war and commencing with the current financial year, the taxes payable by metalliferous mining companies (other than gold or coal) will be reduced by 20%. The reduction applies to income, super, undistributed profits, war-time and the proposed profit limitation taxes.

The concession is being made because, in carrying out the wishes of the Government, the profitable life of mines is being reduced.

The home price of refined copper has been raised from £86/10/- per ton to £100 per ton.

The upper house of the Commonwealth Parliament now has before it the bills containing the Government's proposed uniform income tax plan. It is expected that the Senate will accept the scheme. The compensating payments to the States are calculated after allowance is made for the saving to the States in cost of collection and also for the relief to State Budgets pursuant to the introduction of a Commonwealth-wide scheme of widows' pensions. The Commonwealth Government expects to derive between £m 12 and £m 15 additional revenue. Widows' Pensions will cost approx, £1,600,000 p.a.

The Second Liberty Loan opened on 2nd June and is for the same nominal amount as the first (£35 m.). The terms are the same - i.e.

Bonds maturing 1950-58, issued at par	...	3½%
" " 1946-47 " " "	...	2½%

Current bond yields are shown on another page.

## BANKING

TRADING BANKS: March Quarter averages reveal a further growth of deposits, both "fixed" and "current" and a reduction in advances. The result is a very large divergence between the two. In view of the flotation of the first Liberty Loan during this quarter - and which affected Savings bank deposits - the net increase from Dec. Qr. 1941 to Mar. Qr. 1942 of £1,600,000 in trading bank fixed deposits (bearing interest) is very substantial. There was also a further large increase in current account deposits.

### TRADING BANKS - PRIVATE BUSINESS IN N.S.W.

Period	D E P O S I T S			Advances	Excess of Deposits over Advances
	Bearing Interest	Not Bearing Interest	Total		
Mar.	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Qr. 1939	64,534	51,453	115,987	119,548	(-) 3,561
" 1940	65,852	60,410	126,262	116,880	9,382
" 1941	66,474	71,478	137,952	111,160	26,792
Dec. Qr. 1941	65,856	76,432	142,288	113,565	28,723
Mar. 1942	67,467	82,727	150,194	108,608	41,586
Qr.					

(Excludes C/wealth and Rural Banks and Government Deposits and Government Securities in Private Trading Banks).

## SAVINGS BANKS

Deposits at the end of April were £1.65 m. higher than the March level. During the two previous months Savings bank deposits were affected by subscriptions to the First Liberty Loan. Although the last public loan was opened in February net sales of War Savings Certificates reached a high figure in that month.



The number of "live" savings bank accounts in N.S.W. increased by 11,000 in April.

END OF MONTH.	NUMBER OF SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS.	SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS.	SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS - Increase from preceding month.	WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES - MONTHLY PURCHASES LESS REPAYMENTS.
	'000	£000	£000	£000 (First issued March, 1940).
1939, April	1,318	86,222	(-) 47	34
1940, April	1,320	87,056	297	215
1941, April	1,328	86,982	245	x
1942, April	1,351	91,111	1,652	207
1941, Nov.	1,389	91,499	185	292
Dec.	1,389	91,658	159	
1942, Jan.	1,389	92,973	1,315	239
Feb.	1,379	90,647	(-) 2,326	337
Mar.	1,340	89,459	(-) 1,188	x
April	1,351	91,111	1,652	x

x Not available.

#### INVESTMENT YIELDS.

The downward trend of share prices since December was reversed in April and further improvement was shown in May. The Sydney Stock Exchange Index was 95.73 on April 30th and 99.20 on June 3rd.

In the last few days of May buying sentiment was clearly stronger on the Sydney Stock Exchange than in recent months. However, little selling was recorded.

The yield on part-taxed Commonwealth bonds declined from March to April. Prices were firm in May. The weighted average rate charged on mortgages for the three months ended April fell 0.1%, compared with March, in the case of rural securities and remained steady in the case of urban securities.

#### N.S.W. INVESTMENT YIELDS.

	Share Prices Sydney 34 Active shares par = 100 (Govt. Statistician's Index)	YIELD ON COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT SECURITIES TAXED AT 1930 RATES.		RATES OF INTEREST ON FIRST MORTGAGES	
		5 years & under 10	10 years & over.	Rural	Urban
		%	%	%	%
1939, Sept.	180	3.98	4.04	5.2	5.5
1940, Apr.	187	3.18	3.20	5.2	5.7
1941, Apr.	182	3.07	3.20	4.9	5.5
1942, Apr.	150	3.00	3.13	4.9	5.5
1941, Oct.	186	3.06	3.19	4.9	5.5
Nov.	182	2.94	3.13	4.9	5.5
Dec.	171	2.94	3.09	4.9	5.5
1942, Jan.	166	2.92	3.04	5.0	5.5
Feb.	157 x	3.07	3.17	5.0	5.5
Mar.	147 x	3.07	3.17	5.0	5.5
Apr.	150	3.00	3.13	4.9	5.5

x Last Wednesday in month.

∅ Weighted average rate excl. mortgages to banks and Government.

★ Share transactions ceased from 20th Feb., to 10th March, inclusive.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Bank clearings indicate an active circulation of funds. The index of bank clearings was 125 in April compared with an average of 120 in 1941. Retail and wholesale sales (value) are running at higher levels than last year. Restrictions apply to real estate sales and new building. The volume of business in sales and mortgages is therefore declining.

During the last four months the note issue has expanded by £17m. or 21%. The public is holding the bulk of the increase.

In order to ensure a fairer distribution of supplies and to reduce expenditure on clothing, the newly appointed Commonwealth Rationing Commission will introduce a scheme of clothes rationing on June 15th, 1942.

N.S.W. BANK CLEARINGS, WHOLESALE TRADE, REAL ESTATE.

Period.	Sydney Bank Clearings <sup>o</sup>		N.S.W. Wholesale Trade. Sales.	Sydney Retail Trade. Index of Sales. Base: same period 1931.	N.S.W. Real Estate.	
	Amount.	Index (Base same period 1926/30).			Sales.	New Mortgages & Renewals (Total urban and rural).
	£m.		£m.		£m.	£m.
1938	942.4	101	193.0	143	37.4	27.0
1939	932.3	100	200.3	146	32.2	22.4
1940	1,074.8	113	203.8	156	31.1	16.5
1941	1,139.4	120	229.0	178	33.2	15.6
1941 Mar.	89.4	110 <sup>x</sup>	17.4	160	2.7	1.3
Apr.	86.9	111 <sup>x</sup>	19.0	164	2.6	1.3
Sept.	94.9	124 <sup>x</sup>	21.6	195	2.9	1.6
Oct.	101.8	123 <sup>x</sup>	18.3	205	3.0	1.4
Nov.	99.6	124 <sup>x</sup>	20.6	204	2.5	1.0
Dec.	104.9	124 <sup>x</sup>	20.3	184	3.0	1.2
1942 Jan.	92.0	123 <sup>x</sup>	18.7	160	2.8	.9
Feb.	97.1	123 <sup>x</sup>	19.4	166	2.5	1.0
Mar.	102.6	119 <sup>x</sup>	-	178	2.1	1.0
Apr.	95.4	125 <sup>x</sup>	-	-	2.3	.9

<sup>o</sup> Excl. Treasury Bill transactions.

<sup>x</sup> Three months ended month shown.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY.

The index of consumption of gas and electricity was 145 in April (av. corresp. month 1929-31 = 100). This figure was one point lower than March, 1942. The index was four points in excess of that in the corresponding month last year.

CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY.SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

Base: Average corresponding month 1929-31 = 100.

Year	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Calendar Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.
1938-39	123	121	124	124	123	125	125	130	125
1939-40	134	135	136	131	131	136	135	130	137
1940-41	134	137	139	138	135	141	142	143	141
1941-42	151	154	152	153	148	141	145	146	145



MANUFACTURING.

From May 22nd the manufacture in N.S.W. of a wide variety of goods is prohibited. Similar action was taken in respect of Victorian and South Australian industries from February 28th. The list of banned goods includes sporting equipment, toys, motor cars, decorative metal work, certain varieties of furniture such as lounge suites and coffee tables and household ornaments. The aim is to release manpower. (Developments in manpower control are reported elsewhere in these notes).

Employment in 42 large factories was lower in March than in February. The loss was wholly in male employees. The loss of male employees has been taking place in all factories taken together but is restricted to certain less essential types.

Sales by the 42 factories reached a very high level in March. Some of the factories supply war materials.

It is estimated that in all factories in N.S.W. the number employed in Feb. 1942 was 296,000 compared with an average of 229,000 in 1938/39. The figure is expected to be approx. 297,000 for March, 1942 (preliminary).

N.S.W. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

PERIOD.	42 LARGE FACTORIES.			ALL FACTORIES IN N.S.W.		
	Sales	Employees	Weekly Salaries and Wages	Employees +	Index of Employment.	
					1928/29=100	1938/39=100
	£m.	Hundreds	Hundreds £	000		
1938 monthly average	3.16	235	960	x 225	124	98
1939 " "	3.26	232	969	x 229	127	100
1940 " "	3.59	243	1,056	x 237	131	104
1941 " "	4.40	277	1,326	x 266	147	116
1941 Mar.	4.20	272	1,246	276	153	121
Oct.	4.99	285	1,428	293	162	128
Nov.	4.73	289	1,467	295	163	129
Dec.	5.40	288	1,555	294	162	128
1942 Jan.	4.52	282	1,459	292	162	128
Feb.	4.77	282	1,484	296	163	129
Mar.	5.13	280	1,477	(a)297	(a)164	(a)130

x Year ended June of year shown.

+ Including working proprietors.

(a) Preliminary.

EMPLOYMENT.

Excluding rural employees and household domestics, the numbers employed in N.S.W. at the end of March were 560,600 males and 220,200 females, a total of 780,800. The upward surge of total employment was slowed down when towards the end of last year, army call-ups began to drain men into the forces in large numbers. The peak number of male employees in N.S.W. was reached in Sept., 1941. Since that time, Government authorities have taken on 5,500 more men but private industry has lost 21,000. Females in employment (excluding domestics) have continued to increase rapidly to nearly 60,000 above the July 1939 level.

The Department of Labour and National Service announced at the end of May that there was an unsatisfied demand for skilled labour in essential industries. In N.S.W., munition works were as yet unable to absorb some 10,000 women awaiting jobs in these establishments.

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## NEW SOUTH WALES.

## ESTIMATED TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (EXCL. RURAL AND HOUSEHOLD DOMESTICS)

Month.	MALES.			FEMALES			TOTAL.		
	Government (C'wlth., State & Local.)	Private	Total	Government (C'wlth., State & Local.)	Private	Total	Government (C'wlth., State & Local.)	Private	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1933 June	103.2	275.7	378.9	16.8	101.8	118.6	120.0	377.5	497.5
1939 July	136.5	399.1	535.6	19.4	141.3	160.7	155.9	540.4	696.3
1941 July	141.5	423.1	564.6	21.7	185.0	206.7	163.2	608.1	771.3
Aug.	142.1	427.2	569.3	22.1	186.2	208.3	164.2	612.4	776.6
Sept.	143.4	432.7	576.1	22.4	187.9	210.3	165.8	620.6	786.4
Oct.	143.7	432.1	575.8	22.7	190.2	212.9	166.4	622.3	788.7
Nov.	144.3	431.2	575.5	23.0	193.0	216.0	167.5	624.2	791.5
Dec.	146.4	428.2	574.6	23.4	193.7	217.1	169.8	621.9	791.7
1942 Jan.	146.1	420.8	566.9	23.8	191.5	215.3	169.9	612.3	782.2
Feb.	147.2	416.8	564.0	24.6	194.9	219.5	171.8	611.7	783.5
Mar.	148.9	411.7	560.6	25.0	195.2	220.2	173.9	606.9	780.8

The following table below shows details of employment in some activities. It can be seen that a net increase since July 1941 in male employment has been shown only by Transport (chiefly railways and shipping) and Factories. Retail trade and Commerce have replaced most of their loss of men by women.



## NEW SOUTH WALES.

## EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS AS RECORDED ON PAY ROLL TAX RETURNS.

Last pay-day in Month.	EMPLOYEES RECORDED BY:-						
	All Employers furnish- ing returns.	Employers whose main activity was:-					
		Mining & Quarrying.	Workshop & Factory.	Building & Construction	Trans- port	Retail Trade	Other Com- merce & Fin- ance.
M A L E S - '000.							
1941-July	483.2	21.7	201.6	20.5	77.5	31.6	47.2
Aug.	489.2	21.5	203.2	19.7	80.8	31.1	47.7
Sept.	497.7	21.8	207.0	20.3	81.1	31.6	48.0
Oct.	497.1	21.5	206.7	19.4	82.6	31.2	48.7
Nov.	495.3	21.7	207.7	19.0	81.3	31.8	48.4
Dec.	491.6	21.7	205.7	17.7	84.6	31.6	46.5
1942-Jan.	482.2	21.3	204.2	18.7	82.7	29.9	45.4
Feb.	480.2	21.2	204.3	19.8	82.5	29.1	44.3
Mar.	477.5	21.1	203.9	19.6	82.7	28.2	43.4
F E M A L E S - '000							
1942-July	164.9	0.2	75.7	0.5	3.2	31.7	18.9
Aug.	166.7	0.2	77.1	0.5	3.3	31.2	19.3
Sept.	168.7	0.2	77.8	0.5	3.3	31.5	19.6
Oct.	171.0	0.2	78.6	0.5	3.5	32.2	20.1
Nov.	174.0	0.2	79.2	0.5	3.6	33.7	20.6
Dec.	174.8	0.2	78.6	0.5	3.6	35.1	20.4
1942-Jan.	171.7	0.2	77.8	0.5	3.7	32.6	20.8
Feb.	175.5	0.2	80.1	0.5	3.8	33.3	21.1
Mar.	176.5	0.2	81.1	0.5	3.9	32.9	21.1
T O T A L - '000							
1941-July	643.1	21.9	277.3	21.0	80.7	63.3	66.1
Aug.	655.9	21.7	280.3	20.2	84.1	62.3	67.0
Sept.	666.4	22.0	284.8	20.8	84.4	63.1	67.6
Oct.	668.1	21.7	285.3	19.9	86.1	63.4	68.8
Nov.	669.3	21.9	286.9	19.5	84.9	65.5	69.0
Dec.	666.4	21.9	284.3	18.2	88.2	66.7	66.9
1942-Jan.	653.9	21.5	282.0	19.2	86.4	62.5	66.2
Feb.	655.7	21.4	284.4	20.3	86.3	62.4	65.4
Mar.	653.9	21.3	285.0	20.1	86.6	61.1	64.5

Pay Roll Tax returns are submitted by all employers (other than the Commonwealth Government, charities etc.) paying wages of more than £20 p.wk.

The Commonwealth Government has announced that in the next seven months the manpower required for the services, defence works and Government munition factories would be 318,000 of whom 49,000 would be females. In addition contractors to the Government would require extra labour. Further restrictions on industry supplying civilian needs are promised and during the next few months it is hoped to release considerable numbers from commercial and financial employments and certain types of factories. Export production will be reviewed in order that manpower may be withdrawn from the production of those commodities not required for war purposes by our Allies. Unemployment allowances will be paid by the Federal Government to persons displaced from their jobs by restriction of industry.

It was decided that priority should be shifted from new construction to the maintenance in fighting condition, and the repair of, aircraft and ships. Long-range projects would be scrutinised closely by a special manpower committee.

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The Civilian Construction Corps will soon be in action. About 35,000 men in the 45-55 age groups will be called up to work anywhere in Australia at award rates of pay.

New regulations abolish public holidays for establishments on war work. Existing wage awards will be observed. The holding of organised sport on a public holiday within 50 miles of such an establishment is prohibited.

#### TRANSPORT.

Statistics of railway operations for the nine months ended March show that the tonnage of goods and livestock carried is about the same as last year. The excess of revenue over working expenses is slightly lower than last year both for the railways and road transport services. Both systems are carrying more passengers. During the nine months ended March the railways have carried 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % more passengers than last year and the trams and 'buses 20% more.

To relieve congestion on the railways, especially on interstate services, it has become necessary to reduce travelling facilities. Intra-state services, particularly at week-ends, have been cut. Persons not on official business who wish to travel interstate now have to get written authority.

#### N.S.W. PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

Period.	RAILWAYS - N.S.W.			TRAMS & 'BUSES - SYDNEY & NEWCASTLE.	
	Passenger Journeys.	Tonnage of Goods and Livestock.	Excess of revenue over working expenses (a)	Passenger Journeys.	Excess of revenue over working expenses (b)
	'000,000	'000	£'000	'000,000	£'000
1938-39	186.7	15,417	4,603	375.2	667
1939-40	179.1	13,620	5,308	378.3	700
1940-41	194.1	18,031	6,054	406.9	858
1938-39 July-Mar.	141.2	11,314	3,745	280.1	500
1939-40 July-Mar.	134.3	11,921	5,097	285.5	558
1940-41 July-Mar.	142.8	13,748	6,105	301.8	694
1941-42 July-Mar.	161.6	13,842(c)	6,025	360.9	671

(a) Excl. interest, sinking fund and exchange which amounted to £m.6.56 in 1939-40 and £m.6.62 in 1940-41.

(b) Excl. interest, sinking fund, exchange and current depreciation which amounted to £m.0.67 in 1939-40 and £m.0.66 in 1940-41.

(c) Partly estimated.

Motor vehicle registrations continue to fall. The weekly average number of new vehicles registered in April was 32. The number of vehicles on the registers at the end of April was 3,000 less than the previous month. Registration fees were reduced 20% from May 18th.

Users of motor vehicles in essential services who have failed to fit producer gas units have been warned that their petrol consumption allowances will be reduced 75% from 1st June.



MOTOR VEHICLES - N.S.W.Excl. cycles and defence vehicles.

PERIOD.	New Motor Registrations (av. number per week). <sup>x</sup>	Total Number of Motor Vehicles Registered,		
		Cars.	Lorries & Vans.	Total <sup>/</sup>
		'000	'000	'000
1939 Apr.	523	215	76	326
1940 Apr.	357	214	76	323
1941 Apr.	168	207	76	315
Oct.	82	191	75	297
Nov.	89	191	75	298
Dec.	94	189	76	295
1942 Jan.	49	184	75	288
Feb.	43	179	74	281
Mar.	32	173	73	274
Apr.	32	171	72	271

<sup>x</sup> Cars, cabs, omnibuses, lorries and vans.  
<sup>/</sup> Including other vehicles.

Rubber will be further conserved for essential use by an order relating to priority in the sale of motor and bicycle tyres.

BUILDING.Buildings Commenced.

Restrictions on new building projects became all embracing early this year when the erection of dwelling houses within 25 miles of the Sydney G.P.O. was prohibited. The amounts involved in new private building have therefore declined to negligible proportions except for "business" premises. In April, 1942 the value of "business" premises commenced in the Metropolitan Water Board Area was only 15% of the monthly average for 1941.

The Commonwealth Government may suspend its housing scheme for war workers, except possibly for houses of the cheap "temporary" type. These houses are not desired by State authorities. There is a large demand for materials for defence works and the manpower position is becoming acute. It has been found possible, however, to relax the building prohibition to permit alterations where refusal would involve genuine hardship.

BUILDINGS COMMENCED - METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD AREA.

Period.	Dwelling Houses (excl. Flats).  Number.	VALUE - £'000.				Total.		Grand Total.
		Dwelling Houses	Flats	Business(a) Premises	Misc.	Total.		
						City	Suburbs	
1938	7,457	6,001	2,481	3,496	564	2,007	10,535	12,542
1939	7,341	5,967	1,855	3,130	955	1,800	10,107	11,907
1940	7,161	6,157	2,341	2,795	1,581	1,545	11,329	12,874
1941	7,177	6,556	2,450	1,738	1,074	706	11,112	11,818
1941 Apr.	533	479	202	130	27	43	795	838
Oct.	544	481	91	75	88	23	712	735
Nov.	634	547	162	83	31	26	797	823
Dec.	361	309	45	82	92	18	510	528
1942 Jan.	334	294	57	66	99	13	503	516
Feb.	59	49	9	57	106	28	193	221
Mar.	54	38	4	43	12	13	84	97
Apr.	18	14	-	139	27	38	142	180

(a) Includes factories.

Building Permits and Government Contracts.

During the first quarter of this year, the proposed value of buildings for which permits were obtained by private interests or for which Governments accepted contracts - £m.2.45 - was little above half the total for December Quarter, 1941 (£m.4.50). Government contracts were higher by £164,000. Private projects were £2.2 m. lower.

VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS, ETC. - N.S.W.New Buildings, Alterations & Additions

PERIOD.	PRIVATE BUILDING.		PUBLIC BUILDING. (C/w. and State Govts.)		TOTAL BUILDING.		
	Metropolis	Other N.S.W. as far as recorded (a)	Metropolis	Other N.S.W. as far as recorded.	Metropolis	Other N.S.W. as far as recorded.	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1938	14,042	6,330	x	x	.	.	.
1939	12,219	5,362	x	x	.	.	.
1940	11,718	4,888	894	2,672	12,612	7,560	20,172
1941	10,847	4,758	1,520	2,894	12,367	7,652	20,019
1941 - Oct.	768	1,060	176	202	944	2,017	4,508
Nov.	809		101	218	910		
Dec.	539		98	537	637		
1942 - Jan.	247	533	135	578	382	1,746	2,453
Feb.	121		128	294	249		
Mar.	56		20	341	76		
Apr.	86		79	169	165		

x Not available

/Contracts accepted.

(a) Collected at quarterly intervals.

The following table shows the distribution of proposed new buildings among city, suburban and country areas. The small number of houses now being erected will accentuate post-war housing shortages.

VALUE OF PRIVATE BUILDING PERMITS GRANTED.New Buildings and Additions.

Excludes Government Building.

Period.	I City of Sydney.	II Suburbs of Sydney.	III 129 Rural & Industrial Towns.	IV 7 Semi- Urban Shires.	V Total of Fore- going.	VI Net Addition- al Number of Dwellings.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	No.
1938	3,410	10,632	5,279	1,051	20,372	16,474
1939	1,886	10,334	4,261	1,101	17,582	13,887
1940	1,534	10,184	3,744	1,144	16,606	12,633
1941	552	10,295	3,422	1,336	15,605	12,951
1941 - 1st Qr.	156	2,201	712	243	3,312	2,893
2nd Qr.	217	3,017	960	327	4,521	3,783
3rd Qr.	99	3,041	997	458	4,595	3,752
4th Qr.	80	2,036	753	307	3,176	2,523
1942 - 1st Qr.	37	387	370	163	957	575



RURAL INDUSTRIES.

Seasonal conditions. During April rainfall was very poor. Conditions steadily deteriorated, and rain was awaited for the wheat sowing. Towards the end of May and the beginning of June, saving rains have resulted in quick growth in some areas where pastures were in a very poor state. Germination of seed and springing of young crops has improved and prospects are much better.

RAINFALL INDEX.

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall.  
Average rainfall for each month = 100.

Month	Sheep Districts	Wheat Districts	Dairying districts. (Coastal only).
1941 July,	47	67	40
Aug.	37	41	38
Sept.	56	47	30
Oct.	75	75	53
Nov.	78	65	88
Dec.	34	38	30
1942 Jan.	34	31	26
Feb.	147	158	180
Mar.	74	70	108
Apr.	27	37	45

Food Supplies: There are three aspects to the food supply situation in Australia:

1. Commitments on British account,
2. Requirements of home and Allied forces,
3. Civilian requirements.

For a long period, seasonal conditions have resulted in disappointing production in the dairying and vegetable growing industries. Recently conditions have been much improved but butter and cheese output have not permitted satisfactory exports to Britain. The food supplying industries too, have had a difficult task in adjusting themselves to war-time requirements. This has been due to changes in the shipping allocations and the general strategical situation. Some industries, at first called upon for increased output were subsequently forced to reduce production. Now they are asked again to respond to the call. It is not surprising, therefore, that at this stage of the war there is much to be done in the way of organisation of our rural economy. The planning of production has to be done now when demands have increased greatly and the manpower position has become more acute.

The Minister for Supply, who is also Chairman of the Australian Food Council (v. B.S. 1942/54), stated on 17th May that there would be no necessity for food rationing in Australia. Temporary shortages may occur due to transport difficulties. Stocks of canned fruit were "frozen" on 25th May. This measure was stated to be merely temporary.

Joint Committee on Rural Industries.

In an interim report tabled in Parliament on 1st May, the Committee dealt with farm labour supply, fertiliser requirements and the need for Government direction of rural production. In its fourth progress report the Committee stressed the need for the Commonwealth Government to have a guiding hand in rural policy.

It was recommended a Director of Primary Production be appointed. He would co-ordinate the work of the States' Departments of Agriculture.

An Australian Potato Committee has been set up to control the production and distribution of potatoes.

A Vegetable Seeds Committee also has been established.

/Meat.....

Meat. The Commonwealth Government will purchase second quality mutton at the U.K. contract price, less 15% reduction which applies to other classes of meat. The Standing Committee of the Agricultural Council is considering a proposal for the overall control by the Commonwealth of Australian meat production and distribution.

Rice. A good quality rice harvest, about the third largest on record is now being garnered in N.S.W.. It is hoped that the yield will be 46,000 tons or twice Australia's normal consumption.

Sugar. Australian sugar output last year was about 721,000 tons compared with 783,000 tons in 1940. The crop in 1942 has been grown in a dry period and the yield is expected to be less than last year. There would still be some surplus for export said the Minister for Customs on 5th June.

Demand for refined sugar during the summer half year was 50,000 tons in excess of the previous year. Householders laid in stocks. In addition the Emergency Supplies Scheme has added about 30,000 tons to retailers' stocks.

Wool. Appraisalment of the 1941/42 clip is expected to finish on 20th June. A total of 3,531,000 bales is expected. Australia's wool production has been maintained at a high level. Shearing has begun earlier this year under the zoning scheme which was designed to make the best use of shearing labour. Seasonal workers in sugar-cane cutting and shearing have been asked to register with National Service offices and will not be called up for Army service for the time being.

The British contract price for Australian wool has been raised by 15% - from 13.4375d. per lb. to 15.4531d. This revised price, applying to the 1942 clip, is nearly equal to that paid in the last war (15½d.). Half the profits on resales of wool by Britain accrue to Australia. A certain £9m. extra to growers is assured by the new price.

Wheat. The wheat stabilisation plan for grain delivered into No. 5 pool (1941/42 crop) devised by the previous Government provided for 3/10 per bus. up to 140 m. bus.. The grain delivered to the Wheat Board totalled 153 m. bus.. The present Government limited its liability to £26,833,000 (140 m. bus. at 3/10) or an overall average of 3/6.1 per bus. on the total receipts into the pool. Practically the whole crop has been carried over. Whether or not there will be any further payment depends upon subsequent sales.

It is proposed by the Commonwealth Government that 4/- per bus. be paid for the first 3,000 bus. of the new season's crop delivered by a farmer into the pool (No. 6). An advance of 2/- a bus. against subsequent liquidation may be paid on deliveries in excess of 3,000 bushels. Under the previous scheme the farmer had to meet all costs - which averaged about 11d. a bushel - but the proposed new prices are net at country sidings. The new plan would reduce the liability of the Government.

The local price of wheat for flour for home consumption is unchanged at 3/11½ per bushel.

In Chicago, July futures averaged 123¾ cents per bus. in April and 122¾ cents in May. The price on June 2nd was 115¾ cents.

Winnipeg prices are unchanged on the month. July futures were 80¾ cents per bushel.

The London price for Canadian Wheat was 33/10½ a quarter, f.o.b., during May. The price is now 34/- . Argentine wheat, new crop, rose from 24/1½ to 24/9 per quarter on 13th May and was at the same level on May 30th. Australian wheat has been offered by the British Ministry of Food at 28/- per qr. f.o.b. for old and new crops from 1st May.

Local crop prospects are much improved following the rains in May. It is expected that a reduced acreage will be sown this year. Shortage of fertiliser, particularly superphosphate, and the effect of the Government's plan to pay a guaranteed price only for crops of 3,000 bushels and less and labour difficulties will all tend to reduce sowings.



A guaranteed price of 4/- net per bus. for up to 3,000 bushels may result in small farmers not cutting any of their crops for hay. This would have serious consequences because the past drought has reduced fodder storage to a low level.

Fodder for dairy cattle in the form of crushed wheat will be released at 3/6 per bus. bagged, 8½d. less than the price of wheat (bagged) for human consumption (except local flour). It is hoped to obtain increased butter and cheese output.

Bread prices have been reduced from 19th May following the introduction of the zoned delivery system.

